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PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2001

NATURE OF RELEASE: PLACER COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS AWARDS FIRST SCHOLARSHIP

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SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Placer County Crime Stoppers, Inc., a non-profit group dedicated to reducing crime, has awarded its first scholarship.

Chad Onthank, a student at Chana High School, was selected as the first recipient of the John Chilcote Memorial Scholarship for his leadership and for service to his community. The scholarship was established in memory of Chilcote, a retired California Highway Patrol officer and Foresthill resident who died Jan. 1, 2001. Chilcote was a founding board member of Placer County Crime Stoppers.

Onthank volunteers with several local firefighting agencies and is working this summer as an intern for the California Department of Forestry. He intends on using his \$250 scholarship to pursue a career in firefighting.

In its three-year history, Placer County Crime Stoppers has solved dozens of crimes based on hundreds of anonymous tips placed to the Crime Stoppers toll-free number. By dialing 1-800-923-8191, callers can provide confidential information to law enforcement. If the information results in an arrest, callers are eligible to receive cash rewards.

Placer County Crime Stoppers, Inc., was organized in August 1998, to allow citizens a safe, anonymous method to report crimes without fear of reprisal. The board of directors is comprised of business leaders and concerned citizens interested in assisting local law enforcement agencies in combating crime.

Current board members include: Sylvia Pekkela, Roger Grissom, Ken Lake, Lisa DeAngelis, Mary Jane Perkins, Paul Ellner, Dr. Ron Feist, Bruce Emard, Kelly Richardson, Dave Lucas, Alain Grenier and Steve Paul. Law enforcement advisory members are: Placer County Sheriff Ed Bonner, Rocklin Police Sgt. Bob Martin, Sheriff's Crime Analyst Barbara Beverly and Sheriff's CSO Dena Erwin.

Citizens interested in helping or contributing to Placer County Crime Stoppers may call Placer County Sheriff's Community Services Officer Dena Erwin at (530) 886-3592.

This and other press releases may be found at www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff.